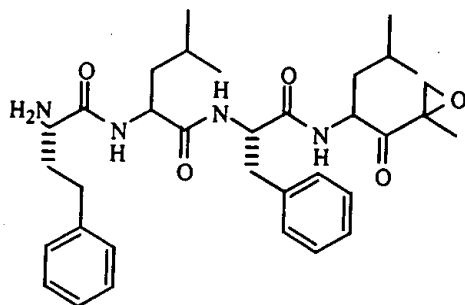


**EXHIBIT A. VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

1. (Amended) A method to enhance bone formation or to treat pathological dental conditions or to treat degenerative joint conditions in a vertebrate animal, which method comprises administering to a vertebrate [subject] animal in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound [that inhibits the activity of NF- $\kappa$ B or] that inhibits proteasomal activity [or that inhibits production of proteasome proteins] and said compound being selected from the group consisting of:

a) a peptide having at least 3 amino acids and a c-terminal functional group that reacts with the threonine residue of the chymotrypsin-like catalytic site of the proteasome,

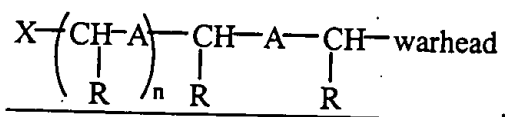


b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) PS-341,

d) NLVS, and

e) a compound having the following formula:



wherein the warhead reacts irreversibly with the catalytic chymotrypsin site of the proteasome;

A is independently CO-NH or isostereomer thereof;

R is independently a hydrocarbyl;

X is a polar group; and

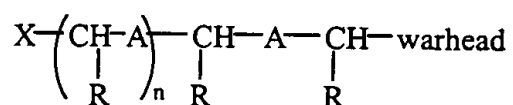
n = 0-2,

whereby bone formation is enhanced or said pathological dental conditions or degenerative joint conditions is treated in said vertebrate animal.

4. (Amended) The method of claim [3] 1, wherein the compound is a peptide having at least 3 amino acids and a c-terminal functional group that reacts with the threonine residue of the chymotrypsin-like catalytic site of the proteasome.

7. (Amended) The method of claim [3] 1, wherein the peptide is a peptide  $\alpha'$ ,  $\beta'$ -epoxyketone.

18. (Amended) The method of claim [3] 1, wherein the compound has the following formula:



wherein the warhead reacts irreversibly with the catalytic chymotrypsin site of the proteasome;

A is independently CO-NH or isostereomer thereof;

R is independently a hydrocarbyl;

X is a polar group; and

n = 0-2.